

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, lines 3-7, as follows:

The application is related to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/812,703 titled "Methods For Collecting Fees For Healthcare Management Group" filed on the same date herewith by the same inventors, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please amend the paragraph on page 2, line 11 to page 3, line 3, as follows:

For example, a physician 25 participating in the insurance network 30 may be reimbursed \$80 per month by the insurance network 30 for agreeing to treat a patient 35 in the insurance network 30 and assume the responsibility for a percentage of the ancillary medical costs 45 for that patient 25. As illustrated in FIG. 1, there exists a relationship between the insurance network 30 and the physician practice 25. Likewise, there also exists a relationship between the patients 35 and the insurance network 30, and the patients 35 and the physician practices 25. The physician practice 25 normally receives payment for services directly from the patients 35 or through reimbursements from the insurance network 30. The payment that is received from the patient 35 can be in the form of a co-payment or a partial payment for the healthcare services. In order for the physician practice 25 participating in the insurance network 30 to receive the entire reimbursement from the insurance network 30, i.e., the \$80 per month for agreeing to treat each patient 35, the physician practice 25 must comply with preselected requirements set by the insurance network 30. These requirements often fall within varying cost centers 45, such as pharmaceutical, laboratory, anesthesiology, and radiation costs, for example.

Please amend the paragraph on page 14, line ¹³~~14~~ to page 15, line 33, as follows: SB 1-4-08

FIGS. 1A-6A illustrate systems and methods of optimizing profitability of healthcare practices and insurance networks by managing ancillary medical costs. As illustrated in FIG. 1A, the present invention preferably includes a healthcare consultation group 22 that forms an intermediary relationship between a healthcare practice 25 and an insurance network 30. The